

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: D'Alcini	*	
Serial No. 10/564,174	*	Art Unit: 3671
Filed: January 10, 2006	*	Examiner: Ms. Jacqueline F. Stephens
For: INCONTINENCE PADS	*	

DECLARATION

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

I, D'ALCINI FRANCO, the inventor and assignee of the US patent application 10/564,174, declare the following:

1) I have been working in the field of diapers, incontinence pads, and sanitary towels for 40 years. I started working with LINES, an Italian leader company in the field of diapers, incontinence pads, and sanitary towels. In 1991 LINES entered a joint venture with Procter & Gamble. Therefore I also worked for Procter & Gamble. I covered the positions of: tester of prototypes, design director, factory manager, patent expert, designer of prototypes for new products, super-expert of materials used for the production. I knew Mr. Gipson personally in a large project in which I was involved on behalf of Procter & Gamble USA (Mr. Gipson worked for Procter & Gamble USA). I have attended 12 INDX Exhibitions in GENEVA, as exhibition manager with a leader company in the field of diapers, incontinence pads, and sanitary towels. In 2003 I retired since I have reached the age limit to work as a dependent. However I have continued to work as an industrial consultant and I filed four patent applications. I believe that I am recognized as an expert in the field of diapers, incontinence pads, and sanitary towels.

2) I declare that it is impossible to find a commercial product according to Gipson patent, since Proctor & Gamble has never manufactured said product. Therefore said product is not available on the market. Furthermore, Proctor & Gamble has definitively abandoned the incontinence pad business now.

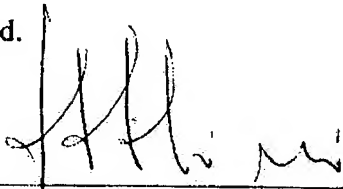
3) I declare that the Gipson patent discloses a belt consisting of a strip of material having slots and stickers which is inserted in the package separately from the pads. All the pads contained in the package are separately used with and mounted on the same single belt. On the contrary my patent application discloses a belt which is a single piece with the back border of the pad. The belt comprises a right semi-belt and a left semi-belt folded upon itself and nested with respect to each other. Furthermore, in my device, the right semi-belt is unfolded and wrapped around the front of the pad where the semi-belt adheres to a patch on the front of the pad. The left semi-belt is unfolded and wrapped around the front of the pad. The left semi-belt adheres to a separate patch on the front of the patch. The left semi-belt placed over the right semi-belt and the end of the left semi-belt is adhered to the outside of the right semi-belt. This is very different from the belt of the Gipson device which does not adhere to the outside of the pad and does not overlap as my device. To my knowledge, no one has ever made a device which has these features. The combination of all of these elements provides a very marketable product which, up until now, has not been available.

4) I need to have my patent application granted in USA in order to expand my business in USA. I believe that my product is of great interest for the companies in the field of incontinence pads. Failing to get a patent in USA I could not compete on the US market with the Far East and European multi-national companies.

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I am currently in contact with many US distributors. However, I am willing to start business in US market only when my patent application is granted.

19/12/08
Date


Franco D'ALCINI

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